

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04980 031229Z

53

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

INR-05 INRE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 OES-02 PRS-01

IO-03 /048 W

----- 042168

O P 031140Z JUL 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9435

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4980

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH-

CONTRACTED SHIP (GEOL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE GOEL I, APPARENTLY AN AMERICAN-OWNED SHIP UNDER A CANADIAN FLAG CONTRACTED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS IN THE AEGEAN. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THIS CASE WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD GIVEN THE GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ASSURANCES OVER A MONTH AGO THAT THIS VESSEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ENTER GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS OR "WATERS OF CONCERN" TO THE GOG. HOWEVER, IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING OF TUESDAY, JULY FIRST, THE VESSEL DID--HE THOUGHT IN THE COMPANY OF A TURKISH VESSEL-- (NO DETAILS) ENTER WATERS "OF CONCERN" TO GREECE BETWEEN IZMIR AND THE GREEK ISLAND OF MYTILINI (LESVOS) AND SUBSEQUENTLY PROCEEDED DIRECTLY INTO GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS ON THE SOUTH COAST OF LESVOS. THE GEOL I WAS OBSERVED AT APPROXIMATELY 6:15P.M. JULY 1 AT APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF MYTILINI OR THREE MILES OR MORE INSIDE GREECE'S TERRITORIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04980 031229Z

WATERS. THE VESSEL WAS APPROACHED BY A GREEK SHIP AND WARNED

AWAY. THE TURKISH VESSEL DEPARTED. THE GEOL I CONTINUED TO STEAM IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION DESPITE THE WARNINGS, AND IT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE ISLAND OF LESVOS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 45 MINUTES OR SO BEFORE FINALLY TURNING SOUTHWARD AND BACK TO SEA.

2. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT THE VESSEL WAS OWNED BY THE GEOPHYSICAL OFF SHORE EXPLORATION COMPANY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OR AFFILIATED COMPANY OF G. SEFEL AND ASSOCIATES OF CALGARY, CANADA. THE SHIP IS REPORTEDLY UNDER CONTRACT TO THE DORCHESTER COMPANY OF DALLAS, TEXAS WHICH IN TURN HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY FOR THE PRESENT EXPLORATIONS.

3. STAVROPOULOS PRODUCED A CHART ON WHICH THE SHIP'S PATH AND SIGHTINGS HAD BEEN RECORDED AND SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE SHIP'S ENTERING GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. EVEN ALLOWING FOR TURKISH CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF "STRAIGHT BASE LINES", WHICH GREECE HAD NEVER ACCEPTED, THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE GEOL I HAD DEPARTED WATERS CLAIMED BY TURKEY AND HAD APPARENTLY CONTINUED ITS RESEARCHES IN GREEK WATERS THAT WERE NOT EVEN BEING DISPUTED BY TURKEY. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THE GOG WANTED TO DO ITS UTMOST TO AVOID ANY NEW FLARE UP OF DIFFICULTIES IN THE AEGEAN AND WAS SOLICITING THE VIEWS AND ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS TO AVOID THIS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR LATER THIS MORNING ON THIS SAME SUBJECT. I SAID THAT SINCE THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY WAS THE CONTRACTING PARTY, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT A LOGICAL FIRST STEP WOULD BE ALSO TO TAKE THE MATTER UP IMMEDIATELY WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HE HAD DONE JUST THAT, HAVING SEEN THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR EARLIER TODAY. HE SAID THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTING THE MATTER TO ANKARA IMMEDIATELY. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED THE GOG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STAVROPOULOS INDICATED THAT IF THE GEOL I DID NOT REFRAIN FROM ENTERING GREEK WATERS IN THE FUTURE THAT THE GOG

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 04980 031229Z

DID NOT EXCLUDE SEIZING THE VESSEL AND HOLDING IT.

4. STAVROPOULOS SAID HE WAS MAKING THESE REPRESENTATIONS TO US IN THE FRIENDLIEST OF MANNERS AND FULLY RECOGNIZED THE COMPLICATED NATURE OF THE VESSEL'S OWNERSHIP AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE MY REPORTING THE GOG'S CONCERN TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

OUR REACTION.

KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, GOEL I, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS04980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-1145
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750784/aaaacxek.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH- CONTRACTED SHIP (GEOL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, (STAVROPOULOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006